

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 12-14 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended herein.

The title was objected to, but has been amended herein. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was objected to for a minor informality, which has been resolved. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 2, 3, 7, 13 and 14 recite allowable subject matter is. Claim 7 has been cancelled herein and the subject matter of Claim 7 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1. It should be noted that the wording of Claim 1 has been changed somewhat to accommodate the wording of cancelled Claim 7 and to improve its form. These changes are not believed to affect the allowability of the claim. Thus, Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-4, 6, 8 and 12-14, which depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 but are believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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